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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 000573

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NSC FOR CEQ CHAIRMAN CONNAUGHTON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/18/2017

TAGS: [ECON](#) [KGHG](#) [SENV](#) [PREL](#) [KPKO](#) [SU](#)

SUBJECT: U.S. OFFICIALS BRIEF UNSYG ON PRESIDENT'S CLIMATE
CHANGE INITIATIVE, DISCUSS DARFUR

REF: STATE 75287

Classified By: Ambassador Richard T. Miller. Reason: 1.4 (b).

Summary

¶1. (C) White House CEQ Chairman Connaughton and Under
Secretary Dobriansky briefed UN Secretary-General Ban on the

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President's May 31 climate change initiative (reftel) during
a June 18 meeting at the UN. Connaughton and Dobriansky
clarified the USG goals and how the initiative would
complement UN processes aimed at reaching agreement among
major economies on the elements of a new international
framework by the end of 2008 and concluding agreement on such
a framework within the UNFCCC. Ban pledged to discuss the
USG proposal with his climate change team. He welcomed the
USG initiative while also urging USG attendance at the UN
High-Level Event on Climate Change on September 24. On
Darfur, the SYG sounded cautious optimism over Sudanese
support for a hybrid force while urging the USG to give him
policy space. End summary.

UN Role in the USG Climate Initiative

¶2. (U) On June 18, White House Council on Environmental
Quality (CEQ) Chairman James Connaughton, Under Secretary of
State for Democracy and Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky and
IO A/S Silverberg briefed UN Secretary-General (SYG) Ban
Ki-moon on the President's May 31 initiative to achieve a new
international climate change framework, including
developments since the G-8 summit earlier in the month at
which the SYG was present. The SYG was joined by Chief of
Staff Nambiar, Deputy Chief of Staff Kim, and A/SYG Orr.

¶3. (C) The SYG opened the meeting expressing his own
encouragement after having seen the President's personal
leadership at the G-8 summit succeed in winning ultimate
agreement. Noting the importance of preserving "political
will," Ban "welcomed" the President's climate initiative and
said he hoped the President might attend some portion of a
SYG-hosted UN High-Level Event on climate change on September
24 (on the eve of the General Assembly general debate).

¶4. (U) CEQ Chairman Connaughton shared with the SYG and his
advisers a 5-page outline of the President's initiative,
reviewing its fundamental principles and dividing envisioned

activities into three parts. Part One plotted out the general content and timeline of a proposed USG-hosted meeting later in 2007 of top emitter and energy-using states, the end result of which would feed into a future UN framework agreement by 2009. Part Two elaborated reinforced work programs for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) deliberations, particularly in the areas of land use (forests, agriculture and urban settings), adaptation (mainstreaming it into national development strategies and avoiding fruitless debates on compensation), energy efficiency, and accelerating technology sharing. Connaughton also noted the UN could play a key role in unifying the disparate metrics countries currently use in measuring their greenhouse gas emissions. Part Three of the USG outline detailed promoting global adoption of clean energy technologies, including buttressing insufficient R&D into clean coal, finance, tariff barriers and sector partnerships.

Connaughton concluded his presentation by reviewing the timeline of successive meetings and processes that would facilitate a new UN framework agreement by 2009. U/S Dobriansky emphasized how the USG initiative was fully complementary and compatible with existing UN processes, including the SYG's September 24 event, and described the positive reception it has received from international partners (India, Brazil, Korea, among others). She also extended an invitation to the SYG to attend a portion of the USG-hosted meeting to which he expressed an interest.

SYG's Bridging Role

15. (U) The SYG was grateful for the further detail on the USG initiative and looked forward to working together. Ban said he would discuss the information with his climate change team, including UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer. Ban

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was particularly drawn to the sectoral approach and national-level benchmarks described in the USG plan, and inquired as to similarities with the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP) and whether the USG initiative would include formal negotiations. (Note: Ban was instrumental in the creation of the Asia-Pacific Partnership when he was ROK FM. End note.) Connaughton replied that the USG process would not produce a formal treaty, but rather achieve agreement on precepts for a future UN framework agreement. The SYG offered to play a "bridging" role between the USG initiative and the broader UN processes.

16. (C) Connaughton promised there would be high-level USG representation at the SYG's September 24 event, but said it was not certain whether the President would be able to attend. The SYG stressed the importance of the President's attendance at some portion of the September event, and indicated he would seek to raise the matter directly with the White House in coming weeks. U/S Dobriansky likewise urged the SYG to make positive reference during his own event to the USG's initiative. The Secretary-General promised to remain in close touch.

SYG Defends Fragile Progress on Darfur Force

17. (C) Turning to Darfur, A/S Silverberg thanked the SYG for his focus on Darfur but noted that the U.S. remained skeptical about President Bashir's intentions and urged that the best way to keep Bashir honest was rapid deployment of the force. Agreeing that Bashir's commitments can be trusted only so far, the SYG noted that he had achieved more in the past six months than in the preceding four years. Even key UNSC skeptics like the UK, he noted, were cautiously optimistic following a recent visit to Khartoum. The SYG urged the USG to give him "policy space" and to allow this "fragile process" to succeed. The SYG also noted that not

all delay is Sudan's fault, expressing frustration over the slow UN processes for lining up troops, finance and logistical support for deployment of the hybrid force. To speed deployment, A/S Silverberg asked the SYG to support immediate rehatting of the two AMIS battalions as part of the Heavy Support Package (HSP).
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